

IN THE CLAIMS

1(currently amended). A test automation framework for building and testing software applications including:

a memory for storing at least one test scenario, said at least one test scenario including ~~a test~~ 1) an application to be tested, 2) at least one input and 3) an expected output;

an input selection element for selecting one or more test scenarios and, for each selected test scenario, selecting 1) how to prepare an application to be tested, 2) how to run the application to be tested and 3) how to verify the application to be tested ~~run and verify a test application~~;

a selection memory for storing the results of the input selection element;

a select element for selecting ~~a test~~ an application to be tested according to the contents of the selection memory;

a prepare element for operating a predetermined prepare process for building the ~~test~~ application to be tested according to the results of the input selection element and storing a log file;

a run element for operating a predetermined run process for running the ~~test~~ application to be tested according to the results of the input selection element and for storing a log file;

a verify element for operating a verify process for verifying the results of the test application to be tested according to the results of the input selection element and for storing a log file; and

an output element for outputting a report of the tests which can include at least extracts of the preparation log file, the run log file and the verify log file if an error occurred.

2(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 1, wherein the prepare element, run element and verify element all operate their corresponding processes on a selected application to be tested before operating their corresponding processes on the next selected application to be tested.

3(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 1, wherein the select element selects each test application to be tested in turn for the prepare element, then each test application to be tested in turn for the run element and then each test application to be tested in turn for the verify element.

4(previously presented). A test automation framework according to claim 1 further comprising:

an element for performing a sanity check on the results of the input selection element and, in the case of an error, aborting in all tests and reporting an error.

5(previously presented). A test automation framework according to claim 1 further comprising:

an element for preparing exit status codes from the prepare process and the run process prior to performing respectively the run process and verify process and for abandoning the respective test when the exit status codes are not OK, wherein the report of the tests can include at least extracts from the log files where the exit status codes were not OK.

6(currently amended). A test automation framework according to claim 1 further comprising:

a prologue element for operating a predetermined prologue process for a plurality of test applications to be tested and storing a log file; wherein

the input selection element is additionally for selecting how to perform and report the prologue process; and

the report of the tests can include at least extracts of the prologue log file according to the results of the input selection element.

7(previously presented). A test automation framework according to claim 6 further comprising:

an element for preparing an exit status code from the prologue process and abandoning tests when the exit status code is not OK, wherein the report of the tests can include at least extracts from the log files when the exit status code is not OK.

8(original). A test automation framework according to claim 1 further comprising:  
a mailer for sending the results of the tests to one or more preselected users.

9(currently amended). A method of building and testing software applications  
including:

storing in a memory at least one test scenario including ~~a test~~ an application to be tested, at least one input and an expected output;

selecting one or more test scenarios and, for each selected test scenario, selecting  
how to prepare an application to be tested, how to run the application to be tested and  
how to verify the application to be tested ~~run and verify a test application~~;

storing the results of the input selection;

selecting ~~a test~~ an application to be tested according to the stored results;

operating a predetermined prepare process for building the ~~test~~ application to be tested according to the stored results and storing a log file;

operating a predetermined run process for running the ~~test~~ application to be tested according to the stored results and for storing a log file;

operating a verify process for verifying the results of the ~~test~~ application to be tested according to the stored results and for storing a log file; and

outputting a report of the tests which can include at least extracts of the  
preparation log file, the run log file and the verify log file if an error occurred.

10(previously presented). A computer readable storage medium having recorded thereon code components that, when loaded on a computer and executed, will cause that computer to perform the method of claim 9.